



South Florida Water Management District

Governing Board Projects & Lands Committee MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2009

9:00 AM

District Headquarters - Storch Room
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Members Present:

Joe Collins

Shannon Estenoz

Jerry Montgomery

Patrick Rooney

1. Call meeting to Order - Patrick Rooney, Chair

Chair Rooney called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Governing Board members Michael Collins and Charles Dauray were in attendance at the meeting.

Note: Committee member Joe Collins arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Note: Governing Board member Kevin Powers arrived at 11:30 a.m.

Note: Governing Board Chairman Eric Buermann arrived at the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the August 12, 2009, Projects & Land Committee meeting held in West Palm Beach.

Motion made by Jerry Montgomery, seconded by Shannon Estenoz, to Approve the August 12th Project and Lands Committee meeting minutes. Vote called. Voting yes: Patrick Rooney, Shannon Estenoz, and Jerry Montgomery. Not present: Joe Collins. Motion passed.

3. Changes to Agenda - Annette Carter, Director, Office of Governing Board & Executive Services

Annette Carter, Director, Office of Governing Board & Executive Services, announced the changes to the agenda.

4. Dispersed Storage and Treatment Update

A. Dispersed Storage and Treatment Overview - Benita Whalen, Deputy Director, Environmental Resource Regulation Department (ext. 2957)

B. Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP) Update - Sarah Lynch, Director, Agriculture, World Wildlife Fund, and Len Shabman, Senior Technical Advisor, FRESP

C. Wetland Reserve Program Update - Jerry Joiner, SFWMD Consultant

D. Wrap Up - Benita Whalen, Deputy Director, Environmental Resource Regulation Department

Benita Whalen, Deputy Director, Environmental Resource Regulation Department, provided an overview of the three programs involved in water storage and treatment - payment for services, easements and cost-share agreements.

Len Shabman, Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP), reported on the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Program and contract process.

Motion by Shannon Estenoz, seconded by Jerry Montgomery, to recommend full support of the Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project to the entire Board with an instruction to staff to work with the FRESP group to resolve any outstanding issues and, if the issues are resolved satisfactorily, to move forward with an implementation program. Vote called. Voting yes: Shannon Estenoz, Jerry Montgomery, Patrick Rooney, Joe Collins. Motion passed.

Note: Mr. J. Collins disclosed at the 10/15/09 meeting his conflicting interest on this item and read his disclosure into the record.

Jerry Joiner, SFWMD Consultant, presented a review of the federal Wetland Reserve Program which involves acquisition of an easement for wetland restoration.

Ms. Whalen then provided a presentation on the cost-share program.

5. Termination of the South Florida Aquaculture, Inc., Lease Agreement - Tommy B. Strowd, P.E., Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects (ext. 6998)

Mr. Tommy Strowd, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects presented staffs recommendation for termination of the fish farm lease based on inconsistency with the goals of the C-111 project.

Nicolas Gutierrez, representing Blue Heron Aquafarms, provided background information on the lease. Mike Hubert, Director, Blue Heron Aquafarms, presented information regarding the workings of the fish farm. They then extended an offer, with the cost to be determined, for payment of the additional canal conveyance construction costs necessitated as a result of their continued operation.

Mr. Michael Collins commented on the water quality monitoring, flooding issues at the site and incompatibility with CERP.

Ms. Estenoz commented on the conveyance canal and cost recovery.

Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, commented on the expansion of the facility, the water quality issues at the site, flooding issues and changes to the water chemistry due to rehydration.

There was no recommendation from the Committee.

Public Comment: Jim Harvey, citizen, supports the fish farm.

Public Comment: Jacquie Weisblum, Audubon, commented to focus on C-111 and Everglades restoration.

6. Seasonal Agricultural Drawdown Study Update - Larry Gerry, Chief Scientist, Federal & State Policy Division (ext. 3701)

Larry Gerry, Chief Scientist, Federal & State Policy Division, presented information on the seasonal agricultural drawdown study. He reported on the stakeholders meetings, the Phase 1 study options, and the potential mitigation measures for the phase II study.

Scott Thorp, Homestead Field Station Director, reported on the agriculture drawdown beginning October 15.

7. Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Acquisition Update - Janet Starnes, Principal Project Manager, Policy and Coordination Department (ext. 7735)

Janet Starnes, Principal Project Manager, Policy and Coordination Department, presented an update on the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Acquisition.

Discussion was held as to whether the boundary should be amended regarding the lower half of Section 34. Committee consensus was that the boundary should not be redrawn and that staff should proceed with acquisition of the remaining half of Section 34.

8. Kissimmee - Lockett Estate Homestead Lease / Management Request - Ruth Clements, Director, Land Acquisition Department (ext. 6271)

This item was moved to the Governing Board Workshop.

9. Public Comment

Public Comment: Mark Lewis, Biscayne National Park, commented on the South Dade Seasonal Drawdown.

Public Comment: Jacquie Weisblum, Audubon, commented on Audubons support of the CREW decision to proceed with acquisition of Section 34 and the disbursed water storage program.

11. Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) Update - Tommy Strowd, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration & Capital Projects (ext. 6998)

Tom Olliff, Assistant Executive Director, gave an update on the Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP). Mr. Olliff provided a history of the program and the changes that have taken place from its initial implementation.

Motion made by Shannon Estenoz, seconded by Jerry Montgomery, to (1) Rescind prior Boards directions regarding entering into an OCIP program with Florida League of Cities; (2) Once the original insurance premium is exhausted with such projects as Compartments B and C and Lakeside, terminate the existing OCIP program; and, (3) As future projects proceed, bring recommendations regarding potential OCIP opportunities. Vote called. Voting yes: Patrick Rooney, Shannon Estenoz, Jerry Montgomery, Joe Collins. Motion passed.

10. Adjourn

Chair Rooney adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Patrick Rooney
Chairman
Projects and Lands Committee

Recorded By:

Cathy Widness
Administrative Assistant Senior
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD